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COLONIAL FAMILIES OF AMERICA

BY ELEANOR LEXINGTON

Seven volumes, 12mo., cloth; each volume illustrated by a frontispiece and forty or more Coats-of-Arms.

Each volume contains historical sketches of forty American families, each sketch illustrated by at least one Coat-of-Arms, and occasionally by two. The main points covered in these family sketches are: (1) the origin of the family surname; (2) some account of the early history of the family in Europe; (3) the different American families of the same name, with accounts of the immigrant-founders and of some of their descendants; (4) members of the family who have figured prominently in Colonial times; (5) Revolutionary soldiers; and (6) Coats-of-Arms.

Since the two hundred and eighty families treated in this series of seven volumes bear names which are widespread (for example, the sixty "common names of the world," as enumerated by Lower, are all included in the list), there are few Americans of Colonial stock who will not discover, as they trace out their lines of descent, that at least ten or twenty of their ancestral families have been included in these books.

The volumes are sold singly or in sets. Price, per volume, \$2.00; carriage, 10 cents. Price, per set of seven volumes, \$10; carriage, 70 cents. The sketch of each family, printed by itself, with Coat-of-Arms, and bound in paper cover, \$1.00; two copies, \$1.50; three copies, \$2.00; five copies, \$3.00; ten copies, \$5.00; twenty-five copies, \$10.00.

Any purchaser of the sketch of a single family for \$1.00 may purchase the volume containing this sketch by the payment of \$1.00 additional, plus the cost of carriage; or may purchase the set for \$9.00, plus the cost of carriage.

The families treated in the several volumes of the series will be found listed on the inside back cover.

I

ROOSEVELT FAMILY

ROOSEVELT FAMILY

NAME TRACED TO THE TWELFTH CENTURY—FIGURES
LARGE IN COLONIAL DAYS—CAPTAIN JOHN, A PIC-
TURESQUE AND DASHING HERO—SOME CHARM-
INGLY QUAIN T NAMES

Roosevelt is a name derived from Roseveltdt—a Dutch word meaning the field, or veldt of roses.

Another form of the name was Rosendahl, a valley of roses.

As a family name it is traced to Poland, where, in the twelfth century, it was assumed by a family who had a rose for armorial bearing, perhaps because they lived in a valley or field of roses. They were called Rosenveldt, or Van Roseveltdt. Other variations are Rosawelt, Rosenvelt, Rosavelt, Rosevelt, Roosenveldt, Roosvelt. The prefix Van, so common in early records, was dropped by the beginning of the eighteenth century.

The common ancestor was Klaas, or Claes Martenzen Van Rosenvelt, of Holland, who arrived in New Amsterdam, now New York, in 1649, with his wife, Janetje Samuels Thomas.

A New York directory for the year 1665 has the name, Bay Roosevelt—a name which appears as that of an immigrant arriving in 1663, in the ship *Rosetree*. His name is put down in the ship record as Bay Groesvelt. In 1664 he paid taxes on \$400 personal property.

In 1728 Jacobus Roosevelt bought the Beekman swamp, as it was called, New York City, for £100. Here tanneries were established, and to this day that locality is called "the swamp." He laid out streets, one named for himself. The ten lots which he bought were each about 25 by 120 feet.

It was Jacobus's daughter, Helena, who married Andrew Barclay, after whom Barclay street was named.

Margreta Roosevelt in 1730 married William De Peyster, a descendant of Johannes De Peyster, who had been a great man of New York and had brought with

him from Haarlem "his exquisite silverware, bearing the De Peyster arms (shield, silver, charged with two sheep, feeding under a linden tree, proper; crest, a linden tree, proper; motto, De Pasco: I feed down, or I can take care of myself)."

De Peyster also brought his pictures, "which were gems of art." With all his greatness he did business in Whitehall street, which was then Winckel or Shop street.

Marriage connections exist with the old, well-known families of Roosa, Rutgers, Varick, Bogert, Aspinwall, Courtlandt, Provost, and Duryeas.

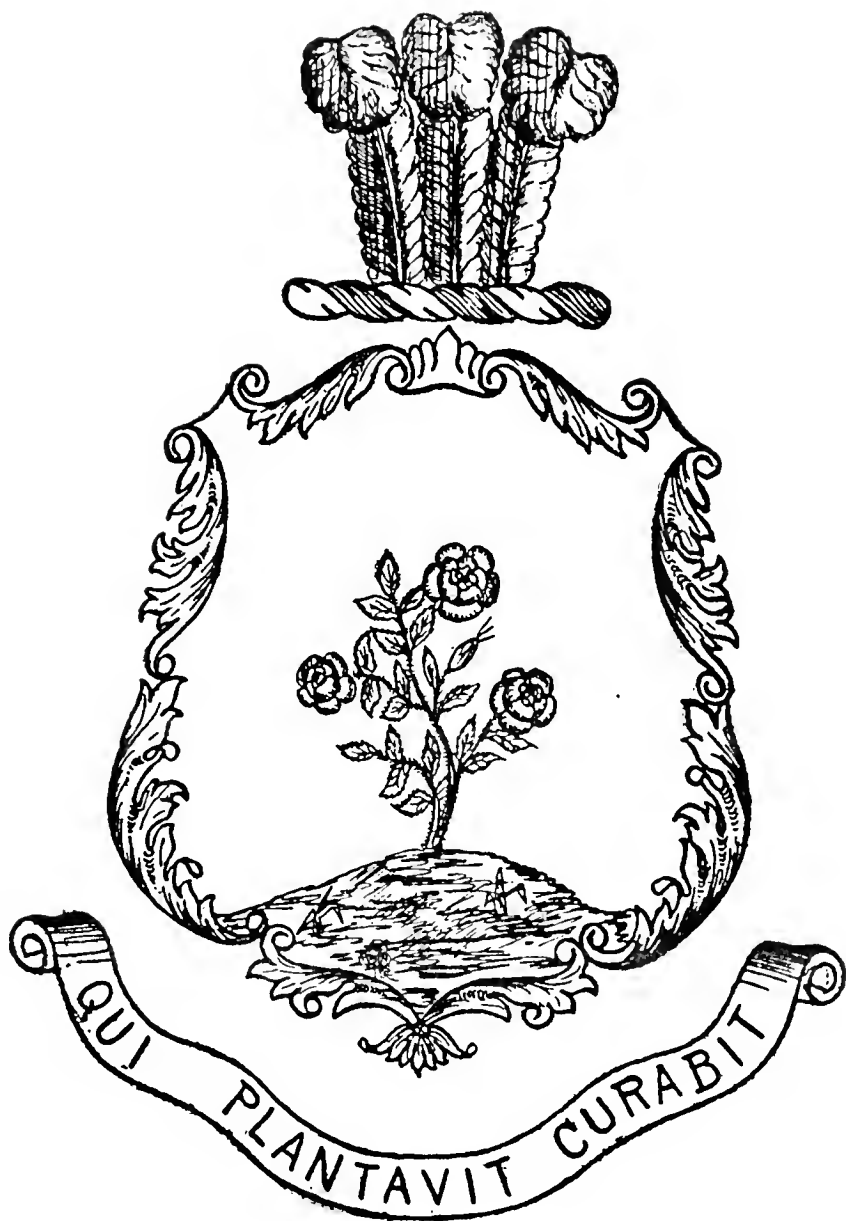
A dozen children, or the maximum, a round baker's dozen, make a good showing in nearly every Roosevelt family of long ago.

Hoffman is another family connection. Isaac Roosevelt, who married Cornelia Hoffman, built the first sugar house erected before the Revolution. It was on Wall street. In 1772, when he removed farther uptown, his advertisement read: "Customers may be supplied with double, middling and single refined loaf sugars, clarified muscovado and other molasses."

He was one of the first members of the Chamber of Commerce, and one of the incorporators of the first public hospital in New York. He served in the Revolution, was one of a committee of one hundred to take control of the government, and helped to formulate the State constitution. In Governor Clinton's administration he was one of seventeen State senators of New York.

James Roosevelt, President Theodore Roosevelt's great-grandfather, gave his services without pay during the entire war of independence.

John was captain of the Oswago Rangers, an independent company of foot guards, organized in 1775. Their uniform was of blue, with small round hats, adorned by a brass plate bearing the name Oswago Rangers. Half-gaiters, black garters, and all-white underclothing were features of the uniform.



Roosevelt

Captain John was as picturesque and dashing a figure as ever strode forth to do and dare. He was perhaps the hero of his day, "a gentleman and a college graduate."

The first lieutenant of the "Corsicans" was Nicholas Roosevelt. This was a militia company, organized under the spur of the approaching conflict of 1775. The Corsicans wore on their short green coats a red heart of tin, with the words, "God and Right." Around the crown of their small round hats was the legend, "Liberty or Death," with a cock on one side of the hat.

Cornelius Van Schaack Roosevelt, who was born in 1794, and died, at Oyster Bay, L. I., in 1871, was one of the founders of the Chemical National Bank, of New York, which has never failed to pay its obligations in gold, and during the Civil War redeemed its notes at one time at 280 in greenbacks.

The son of Cornelius Van Schaack Roosevelt, Theodore, father of the President, was a glass importer in Maiden Lane.

"During the War of the Rebellion he helped raise and equip regiments that went out; he joined in organizing the Union League Club, worked with the Loyal Publication Society, assisted in the organization of the Sanitary Commission, and saw to the comfort of the soldiers in the field and of those left at home.

"He drafted the bill to establish 'allotment commissions,' and was appointed by Lincoln one of the Commissioners from New York. He assisted in organizing the Protective War Claims Association, which collected the dues of crippled veterans and of the families of the dead without charge. It was at Mr. Roosevelt's house that the Soldiers' Employment Bureau was organized.

"Hayes appointed him Collector of the Port of New York. He was one of the founders of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and of the Metropolitan Museum of Natural History. 'A man of untiring energy, of prodigious industry, the most valiant fighter of his day, for the right, and the winner of his fights.'

"He drove a four-in-hand in the Park, sailed a boat, loved the woods, shared in every athletic sport, and was the life and soul of every company."

He died in 1878.

There is a Scotch-Irish strain in President Roosevelt's Dutch blood which comes from the Dunwoodys and Criswells, Pennsylvania settlers early in the eighteenth century.

A little romance comes into the story hereabouts. John Dunwoody, of Scotch-Irish parentage, settled in Chester County, Pa., in 1736. He was a school-teacher, and, along with "readin', 'ritin' and 'rithmetic," he taught his pupils, that is, one, Susanna Criswell, aged 16, how to conjugate the verb "to love" so successfully that she promised to marry him if he would buy a farm.

As a matter of fact, she wouldn't give the fateful "yes" until he was a landowner. They finally settled at Brandywine Manor, where she was called the handsomest woman in the town. Of their eight children, one, Dr. James, removed to Georgia. His daughter married John Elliott, United States Senator, and it was their granddaughter, Martha Bulloch, who was Theodore Roosevelt's mother.

Through her he traces back to Archibald Bulloch, first governor of Georgia and commander-in-chief of the State's forces in 1776.

In President Roosevelt the South had a representative in the White House, more closely allied to it by birth than any President since Tyler.

It is, perhaps, from the Dunwoodys that Roosevelt got his independent and aggressive spirit. They were all fighters when occasion required. Several of the family served through the Revolution, they knew Washington personally, and were with him at the battles of Brandywine and Trenton, and crossed the Delaware with him.

On the Bulloch side of the house President Roosevelt traces back to the family of Robert Bruce, King of

Scotland, through his sister, Christian, who married Sir Christopher Seton.

One line of Roosevelts traces to Henry III. of England and Eleanor of Provence.

In old Roosevelt records we come across such charmingly quaint names as Anatje, Nettje, Marritie, Elije, and "Tryntie, or Cathrine, Jans Uijt den Hage." The last named was the bride of a Roosevelt. Another fair Dutch maiden, with a name all her own, was Heyltje Jakeyntje Kunst. She gave part of it up in exchange for that of the more euphonic one, Roosevelt.

Another word may be of interest in this connection, although the story has, of course, been told. When President Roosevelt visited his mother's home in Georgia, an interesting presentation was made to him consisting of two receipted bills, acknowledging the sale, by his maternal grandmother, of four negro slaves, whom she sold in order that she might obtain money to purchase the trousseau for the wedding of her daughter to Mr. Roosevelt, father of the President.

One of the bills reads as follows:

"Received, Dec. 27, 1843, from Mr. John F. Martin, \$800; said sum being in full payment for one negro woman named Bess, and her child John.

(Signed)

"MARTHA BULLOCH."

The coat-of-arms illustrated, borne by all of the Roosevelt name in the United States, is: Argent, on a mount, vert, a rosebush, with three roses in full bloom, proper.

Crest: Three ostrich feathers, per pale, gules and argent.

Motto: Qui plantavet curabit—"The one who planted it will take care of it."

COLONIAL FAMILIES OF AMERICA

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